

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH



COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO

OFFICE OF HEALTH PROMOTION AND EDUCATION SERVICES (HPES)
351 North Mt. View Avenue, Second Floor, San Bernardino, CA 92415-0010
(909) 387-6280 ♦ (800) 782-4262 ♦ (909) 387-6359 TDD ♦ Fax (909) 387-0102

JAMES A. FELTEN, MPA
Public Health Director

ERIC K. FRYKMAN, MD, MPH, MBA
Health Officer

CONTACT: James Felten
Public Health Director
(909) 387-9146
or
Eric Frykman, MD, MPH
Health Officer
(909) 387-6218

April 20, 2005

NR # 05-19

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Local Health Professionals Get Trained for Disease Outbreak Investigation

(San Bernardino, CA) 4/20/05 – In an effort to expand its ability to rapidly respond to disease outbreaks, bioterrorism, or other public health emergencies, the San Bernardino County Department of Public Health joined local health departments across the state in an interactive multi-media training exercise on April 19, 2005.

With the emergence of new infectious diseases such as bird flu, severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS), and West Nile virus, the training is timely.

“The most critical resource in the proper detection and reporting of public health outbreaks is a well-trained frontline staff,” said James Felten, Public Health Director.

Coordinated by the California Department of Health Services, the training consisted of presentations by communicable disease experts via satellite, role-playing activities, and practical skills building such as learning strategies for locating infected individuals.

“To guarantee a rapid response in the event of a public health emergency, health departments must have sufficient staff to respond,” said Felten. “Staff who do not usually conduct disease investigations were trained to conduct telephone interviews and home visits during an outbreak. This training will assist staff in developing a coordinated response plan ahead of time and ultimately prevent the spread of disease.”

###

MARK UFFER
County Administrative Officer

Board of Supervisors
BILL POSTMUS.....First District DENNIS HANSBERGER.....Third District
PAUL BIANE.....Second District GARY C. OVITT.....Fourth District
JOSIE GONZALES.....Fifth District